

CREW SHIRKED TO WORSHIP A WALL

Part of Sacred Ceylon Temple Brings Woe to the Ben Vrackie.

LASCARS DIDN'T WORK.

When Chief Prayer Was Ordered to Labor He Piped All Hands to Devotions.

The British steamship Ben Vrackie, from Java and East Indian ports, arrived safely at her berth in Brooklyn today after a tempestuous and exciting voyage. The Ben Vrackie carried a section of wall of the sacred temple of Ceylon, which will be shown as part of the Ceylonese exhibit at the International Food Fair, to be held in Boston next week.

Also the Ben Vrackie carried a Lascar crew, who for seventy days divided their attention between their duties and worship of the sacred masonry. Capt. Findlay signed his Lascar crew at Sourabaya, Java, from which port he sailed on July 21. He informed the searoom, Maabab Dingley, who superintended the Lascars, that he would take aboard a portion of the sacred temple at Ceylon as part of his cargo. At first Maabab Dingley feared he would lose his crew, as it was sacrilege in their eyes to remove any of the holy shrine from its sacred site. But he agreed to talk it over with the chief prayer of the Lascars, Mohammed Ben Sir.

Ben Sir was at first outraged and declared that the ship would be accursed and that they would all go to the bottom of the sea. When he thought it over soberly and was informed that the temple wall would ultimately be returned, a new light came to him. The crew would be afforded a wonderful opportunity for prayer, and he as chief prayer could make all sorts of trouble for the officers if they interfered with his devotions. Thereby he could shirk all work.

So there was no protest when the Ben Vrackie arrived at Ceylon and the wall of the temple was swung aboard. Long before the ship made Suez, however, Capt. Findlay had reason to regret that he carried a Lascar crew and a fragment of temple. Mohammed Ben Sir refused to do anything but pray. The searoom could do nothing with him, when he threatened he would call upon all hands to bow their heads to the deck and worship. So it was throughout the voyage, especially during inclement weather. The appearance of each threatening cloud was a signal for general prayer, and while it stormed, which it did most of the way, it was almost impossible to work the ship. When the Ben Vrackie reached a great sigh of relief and lost no time in getting the temple wall over the side and shipped on its way to Boston.

WATCHMAN FOUND DEAD IN HIS SHANTY

With Prayer-Book in Hand and Dead Baby's Ring Beside Him.

With an open prayerbook in his hand, a rosary and a little child's ring lying beside him, John Lyons, fifty-one years old, a watchman in the Pennsylvania Railroad excavation at Seventh avenue and Thirty-second street, was found dead in his watchman's shanty early this morning.

Lyons had lit a smoky lantern and sat on the floor, leaning back against the shanty. He had evidently been reading his prayerbook and fondling the baby's ring. He was dead with his head lying on his arms on the table. Dr. George Hertry, of No. 215 West Thirty-third street, who was called, said that death was due to heart disease.

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DIES BECAUSE THE RICH WOULDN'T PAY

Butcher Could Get No Money from Wealthy Patrons to Pay His Debts.

William Roth, a prosperous butcher of No. 48 Halsey street, Brooklyn, who shared among his trade some of the wealthiest families on Bleecker street, killed himself today because accounts owed to him could not be collected.

For several weeks Roth has been worried. He had debts outstanding to the amount of \$8,000, but his own credit was failing. "I can't collect what is owed to me from my rich customers," he told the creditors. "When they pay them I will pay. All of them are telling me that money is so tight that it is impossible for them to pay debts."

Roth told his wife at dawn today that he was going to market. Instead he went to the bathroom and turned on the gas. They found him dead several hours later.

Francis MacMillen Opens the Music Season.

FRANCIS MACMILLEN, the young American violinist, opened the local music season last evening by giving a recital at Carnegie Hall. He was greeted by an audience of considerable size that was impatient at the delayed beginning, applauded every number generously and insisted upon more than a full measure of "extras." In the D minor concerto by Vieuxtemps, and in Paganini's fantasia for the G string, Mr. MacMillen showed a growing mastery of the mechanics of his art. Bach, Beethoven and Mozart numbers were interpreted by him with no little feeling. He is full of promise.

Rosina Van Dyck, a soprano from Amsterdam, made a favorable impression in the mad scene from Thomas's "Hamlet" and in the familiar air from Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro," but her voice runs to shrillness in the upper register.

Richard Hageman was at the piano.

Treat Given to Music Lovers by the Marine Band.

Any lover of music who could not find two hours' spare time at the Hippodrome last evening missed a treat. Leader Santelmann, of the United States Marine Band, furnished a programme full of excellent numbers, a noteworthy one being the "Bear Gait," a waltz, played "in memoriam" to the late Edward Hagerup Grieg. For that the band received five encores. Among the other instrumental pieces, Lieut. Santelmann's arrangement of Weber's "Invitation to the Dance," for a military band, was especially good.

The audience was very much pleased by the excellence of the solo artists of the evening. They were Miss Annie Black, contralto; George L. Strauss, contralto; Sir Antonio Paoletti, tenor; and Sir, Cesare Alessandro, baritone. With Mr. Jacques L. Vanopoucke, clarinetist. Their interpretation of the quartet from "Hugobolero" was most excellent. There were so many encores given during the evening that no intermission could be allowed, nor did the large audience appear to want any rest from the hearing of music till "The Star-Spanked Banner" ended the concert.

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